

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT ISLAMABAD 6379 SENT ACTION SE CSTATE JUL 12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 6379

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJ: P

ESS COVERAGE OF PAK NEWMEN'S CALL AT
DEPARTMENT

1. PAK PRESS JULY 11 GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO REPORT
OF CALL AT DEPARTMENT BY 50 PAKISTAN JOURNALISTS. CALL
ALSO REPORTED ON PAK RADIO AND TV.

2. MOST PAPERS CARRIED ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN
ACCOUNT UNDER SUCH BANNER HEADLINES AS "AMERICA WILL CONTINUE
TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN. (NAWA-I-WAQAT), AND "AMERICA
IS WATCHING THE SITUATION IN CONNECTION WITH PAK-AFGHAN
RELATIONS. (HURRIYET). FULL TEXT OF APP REPORT FOLLOWS:

3. "WASHINGTON, JULY 10: OFFICIAL QUARTERS HERE HAVE EX-
PRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN
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PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES AND PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT TO
PAKISTAN, WRITES "APP" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

4. "IN AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH A PARTY OF SIFTY PAKISTAN

JOURNALISTS THE OFFICIALS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID
YESTERDAY THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
WERE VERY REMARKABLE AND EXCELLENT.

5. "WE ARE TRYING TO HELP PAKISTAN AS FAR AS POSSIBLE."
THEY ADDED. ANSWERING A QUESTION REGARDING THE LIFTING OF
EMBARGO ON ARMS SUPPLIES THEY SAID THEY WERE QUITE OPEN-
MINDED.

6. "REPLYING TO A QUESTION REGARDING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN
PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN THEY SAID: "WE ARE FOLLOWING THE
DEVELOPMENTS VERY CAREFULLYBM IT WAS HEATENING TO QOTE THAT
THERE WAS SOME REDUCTION IN PROPAGANDA."

7. "WE WANT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE REGION AND OUR
DESIRE IS THAT AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN SHOULD FIND A WAY
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, THEY ADDED. THEY ALSO TOUCHED UPON
THE LATEST SITUATION OBTAINING IN INDIA AND SAID: "OUR HOPE
ISTHAT THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
INDIA AND PAKISTAN WOULD CONTINUE. ALTHOUGH ISSUES LIKE
KASHMIR STILL REMAINED UNRESOLVED, YET MANY OUTSTANDING
PROBLEMS HAD BEEN SETTLED FOLLOWING THE SIMLA AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TWO NEIGHBOURS."

8. "ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON THE PRESENCE OF NAVAL FORCES IN
THE INDIAN OCEAN, THEY SAID THE US WOULD NATURALLY BE CON-
CERNED IF ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT GAVE DOMINANCE TO ANY ONE
MAJOR POWER. "WE WANT FREEDOM OF PASSAGE, FREEDOM OF SEAS
AND SAFEGUARDING COMMERICAL INTERESTS, THEY ADDED.

9. "THEY DESCRIBED AS "SHEER NONSENCE, THE REPORTS REGARDING
THE INVOLVMENT OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) IN THE
INDIAN AFFAIRS.

10. "A QUESTIONER WANTED TO KNOW IF THE UNITED STATES
INTENDED TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH ASIA FOLLOWING THE SETBACK
IN VIETNAM, THEY SAID THAT IT IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT IS
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NOT THE PLAN. THE UNITED STATES HAD A CONTINUING INTEREST
IN THE AREA. "WE CANNOT TURN OUR BACKS AND WE WILL STAND BY
OUR COMMITMENTS," THEY SAID.

11. "TALKI G ABOUT US-CHINA RELATIONS THEY SAID THEY WERE
SATISFIED WITH THE IMPROVING RELATIONS WHICH ARE NOW ON A
STABLE BASIS. THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN WAS AN AREA OF DIFFICULTY
AT FUTURE DISCUSSIONS AND DIALOGUES BETWEEN CHINA AND THE
UNITED STATES.

12. "ANSWERING A QUESTION THEY SAID THAT PAKISTAN WAS DOING
EXTREMELY GOOD IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

AND PROGRESS WAS REMARKABLY WELL AND QUITE IMPRESSIVE.

13. THE OFFICIALS ALSO DEALT WITH BRIEFLY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES INVOLVING MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS AND THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THIS REGARD. THEY THREW LIGHT ON DETENTE BETWEEN THE US AND USSR.

14. PAKISTAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS WHILE EXCHANGING VIEW WITH THE JOURNALISTS ALSO DESCRIBED THE US-PAKISTA RELATIONS AS VERY GOOD. THEY SAID THAT THERE WAS A MARKED IMPROVEMENT FOLLOWING THE LAST VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO TO THE US. OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO GROW ON A VERY STRONG FOOTING, THEY SAID. APP".

15. WIDELY CIRCULATED URDU DAILY JANG CARRIED ACCOUNT FILED BY OWN CORRESPONDENT UNDER FRONT PAGE HEADLINE, "AMERICA WON'T REMAIN SILENT IN CASE OF ANY EXTERNAL THREAT TO PAKISTAN." STORY GENERALLY SIMILAR TO APP REPORT BUT SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT "HIGH OFFICIAL" OF STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ASSURED NEWMEN THAT THE US WOULD NOT REMAIN SILENT BEFORE ANY EXTERNAL THREAT TO INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF PAKISTAN BECAUSE PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY AND SECURITY ARE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF US POLICY.

16. ALTHOUGH MAIN APP AND JANG STORIES DID NOT IDENTIFY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WITH WHOM NEWMEN MET, SHORT SUPPLEMENTARY APP STORY WHICH CARRIED IN SEVERAL PAPERS MENTIONED THAT JOURNALISTS HAD HAD HOUR-LONG SESSION WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AND HAD ALSO MET EARLIER WITH WHITE HOUSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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COUNSELOR HARTMAN.
LUPPI

UNQTE
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